

field, Essex, was signed last week, by Mr. Winsland, of London, and Tuesday next is fixed upon to break ground. The commencement of operations will be the erection of the apartments for females and debtors, and the chaplain's and governor's houses.—The *Edinburgh Advertiser* states that the Provost of Kirkwall lately received a letter from the Duke of Sutherland, intimating that Sir Robert Peel had agreed, on the part of the government, to grant a sum of money for putting the ancient and venerable Cathedral of St. Magnus in a state of efficient repair.—The *Scottish Railway Gazette* says that some of the railway companies contemplate the purchase of the College of Glasgow for the formation of a general terminus, for which purpose the locality is well adapted.—The parish church of Tarrant Gunville, rebuilding under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, the diocesan architect, is nearly completed, and will very shortly be consecrated by the Bishop of Salisbury.—The new church at Wilton, near Salisbury, built at the sole expense of the Hon. Sydney Herbert, and to which we have more than once drawn attention, is to be consecrated on the 9th proximo, by the Bishop of Salisbury.—Lady Emma Pennant has not only contributed handsomely towards the rebuilding of the old church at Whitford, near Holywell, but undertaken to build a new aisle at her own expense.—Cottingham Church, situate in the East Riding of Yorkshire has recently undergone very extensive alterations and improvements. Three hundred additional sittings have been provided.—Among the many improvements that have of late been effected in the port of Hull, may be mentioned the graving dock of Messrs. Edward Gibson and Son, situate on the garrison side of the town. The works have been carried out on a liberal principle, and the space so much extended, both in length and breadth, and depth of water, as to insure the commodious reception of the largest ships navigating the Humber, whether under canvas or impelled by steam.—A correspondent of the *Hull Packet* has revived the project, which has more or less slumbered since 1843, of erecting an additional bridge across the river Hull. He says, every one who has frequent occasion to cross the Old Dock or North Bridge, must be fully aware that an additional bridge is now much wanted, and its formation will soon be indispensable to accommodate the additional traffic of the east dock with the proposed railway terminus on its quay.—Much activity prevails at the present time in strengthening the fortifications and defences of Portsmouth Harbour. The improvements at Blackhouse Fort are also rapidly progressing, a large number of men being now employed under contract for that work. The fort is being made into a two-tier battery of fifty guns. At the northern part of Blackhouse Point a new battery or circular fort is being formed, which will flank the entrance of the harbour. Between this new battery and the Blackhouse Fort a new barrack is in course of construction.—The restoration of the ancient church of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, is nearly completed. This interesting specimen of ecclesiastical architecture contains several examples of the earlier styles. The Norman doorway at the west entrance, and the Early-English window in the south-east aisle, are deserving of especial notice.—A few days since the workmen employed in excavating for the new branch railway which is intended to run from the Stratford station of the Eastern Counties line to the mouth of the river Lea, near Blackwall, lighted upon some curious and interesting remains connected with the Benedictine monastery. About 2 feet below the surface a sort of chamber presented itself, of an oblong shape, rounded at one end and square at the other, about 12 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 5 feet in depth. The outer wall, which is of strong masonry, is about 6 inches thick. Within that is a layer of cement, which is again lined with thin red tiles of peculiarly close texture. It is clear that this chamber, which, when whole, must have been a very handsome one, was intended as a lavatory, for which purpose a well, that was discovered within two or three feet of it, furnished an abundant supply of water. A few yards lower down towards the Thames the workmen broke into an archway very strongly built, somewhat after the Danish manner, (?) which has given rise to much conjecture.

SUBARCUTION AND WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM.

At the recent meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Winchester,* the following interesting letter, addressed by Dr. Ingram to Dr. Williams, Warden of New College, was read, but seems to have escaped the London reporters:—

"Monday, Sept. 8.

"MY DEAR WARDEN,—I thank you much for your kind letter received yesterday. * * * You flatter me too much by supposing my presence at Winchester to be of much importance, though I am placed in the Architectural Section. It is now nearly half a century since I used to pace the gorgeous aisles of Winchester Cathedral, and make the Church of St. Cross the object of my almost daily walks. Since that time I have been gratified to find how universal almost has become the correct taste and knowledge, as well as admiration, of mediæval architecture; and there cannot be a better school for it than the various portions of Winchester Cathedral, the churches of St. Cross, Romsey, &c. The gradations and transitions of the art are numerous, but easily traced; from the plain crypt of St. Ethelwold under the presbytery of the cathedral, and the Norman transept of Walkelyng, to the splendid works of Edyngton, Wykeham, Beaufort, Fox, and Langton. The members of the Architectural Section should particularly notice and examine the manner in which William of Wykeham carried on the work which his immediate predecessor, Edyngton, had begun at the west end of the nave. A difference is observable not only in the windows, but in the mouldings and tracery of the panel work below in the interior. Perhaps a few sketches in detail of the respective works of these two prelates might be interesting and useful, as tending to illustrate the progress and advancement of architectural taste and science, during the long and brilliant reign of Edward the Third, under the auspices of such patrons as these; the one the King's Treasurer, and the other, constituted by letters patent, Surveyor of the King's Works. The large church which Bishop Edyngton erected from the foundation in his own native place, in Wiltshire, from which he derives his name, is well worthy of the attention of the archaeological antiquary and the artist; some details of which, at least, might be considered as not unconnected with the examination of his other works at Winchester. In the same manner, if the various works of William of Wykeham, executed at Adderbury, King's Sutton, Oxford, Bishop's Waltham, and Winchester, were placed in juxtaposition with each other, it would be found that he began with the Decorated, and ended with the Perpendicular, according to the nomenclature of the late Mr. Rickman. There is one point which deserves particular attention in the late architecture of William of Wykeham. No other architect before his time so well understood, and practically applied, the principle of subarcuation; that is the mode of constructing two inferior and subordinate arches under the third or main arch. They both seem to rise naturally from the middle stem, or principal mullion in the centre of the window, diverging at a certain point with an easy sweep or curve, so as to form two independent arches, filled with corresponding tracery, and serving to strengthen, at the same time that they adorn, the master arch that contains them. This principle, which is so obviously predominant in all large windows, was not unknown at an earlier period, and was practised to the latest; but the arches were often lost in the intersection or crossing of the mullions; and sometimes, as in the windows of the clerestory of St. Mary's, at Oxford, the diverging point is so unconsciously chosen, as to produce the worst possible effect. The best examples of this principle of construction, therefore, I have no hesitation in ascribing to the superior taste and skill of William of Wykeham; and of those examples, perhaps, no better can be found than in the windows of New College Chapel. I call this the principle of subarcuation; and the arches themselves, in the memorials of Oxford, I ventured to call *subarches*; but I observed some writers since confounding them with the *soffits* of arches. As the subject,

therefore, appears to be new, if any thing in architecture can be so, I have submitted it now to the consideration of the architectural section of our society.—I remain, my dear Warden, yours truly, in haste, J. INGRAM.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

On Friday, the 19th instant, a meeting of the commissioners took place at the Court House, in Greek-street, Foho, when a great deal of mere routine business was transacted.

Mr. J. Ponsford having petitioned the court to allow him to build 640 feet of 24-inch barrel drain in the old line of the Baywater stream, and the following letter on the nuisance caused by the diversion of the sewer having been read:—

"62, Moorgate-street, 4th Sept., 1845.

SIR,—Mr. Kerr, of Kensington Gardens Terrace, has consulted with us on the subject of the nuisance to which he and his neighbours have been subjected in consequence of the arrangement made by the Commissioners of Sewers in turning the course of the rivulet which ran at the back of his house; and as the inconvenience is so great, that he is scarcely able to live in the house, it becomes necessary that the commissioners should take the necessary means for removing the annoyance complained of; or if they fail to do so, we shall be compelled to adopt such steps for compelling them as our counsel may advise.

When Mr. Kerr took the house he was subjected to no such inconvenience, which we understand it is admitted has been produced by the act of the commissioners; and if this be so, we are sure that so respectable a body will lose no time in taking the proper steps to remove it.

Had the present summer been as hot as usual, it is frightful to imagine what might have been the consequence; but having now formally called your attention to the subject, we are sure that it will be removed.

We are, Sir, your obedient Servants,

SIMPSON AND COBBE."

The Court refused to grant Mr. Ponsford's petition, but allowed the permission for a length of third size sewer, instead of the barrel drain. The only other question of importance during the day was No. 6 in the business paper, "To consider the steps to be taken for new contracts for the works."

Mr. Leslie moved and Mr. Robert Gunter seconded a motion, in nearly the same words which we have before given, that all works exceeding 500 be carefully prepared for by estimates, plans, and specifications, and subsequently advertised for in the daily papers and in this journal.

An amendment was moved by Mr. William Leverton Donaldson, and seconded by Mr. Gutch, "That the present system of contracting for works be pursued." For the amendment, three:—Messrs. Frederick Crace, W. L. Donaldson, and Gutch. Against the amendment, ten:—Messrs. Baylis, Cantwell, Clowser, Fuller, J. Gunter, R. Gunter, Leslie, Marriott, Unwin, and Wood. The original motion was then carried by twelve to one. The court adjourned to Friday, the 3rd October.

PLYMOUTH BREAKWATER.—We understand that the attention of the Board of Admiralty has been again directed to the important question as to whether or not Plymouth Sound has lessened in depth of water by reason of the construction of the breakwater. It will be recollected that about four years since accurate soundings were taken throughout the Sound, and the result marked upon a chart constructed for the purpose. During the present week similar soundings have been again commenced, and we doubt not that when complete the result will prove of the most satisfactory description. It is intended that the bottom of the Sound shall be examined with the aid of the diving-bell, and arrangements are now making for that purpose. Connected with these proceedings Mr. James Walker, the engineer, arrived here on Thursday.—*Plymouth Times*.

FAILURE OF WOOD PAVING IN THE STRAND.—The authorities of St. Clements Danes have advertised for sale as fire-wood about 500 yards of wood paving, now laid down between the top of Arundel-street and Norfolk-street, and intend to replace the same with stone as before.